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E.O. 12065: GDS 12/26/87 (MEEHAN, FRANCIS J.) OR-M
TAGS: MPOL, BGOV, PINT, PINS, PL
SUBJECT: REPORT BASED ON INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM MEDIA SOURCES

REF: STATE 335872

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM MEDIA SOURCES. EMBASSY CANNOT CONFIRM THE ACCURACY OF THE REPORT.

SOLIDARITY SOURCES SAID THAT SEVERAL PEOPLE DIED IN GDANSK AND WROCLAW LAST WEEK AS SECURITY FORCES TRIED TO PUT DOWN STREET DEMONSTRATIONS AND END STRIKES CALLED TO OPPOSE MARTIAL LAW.

INFORMATION FROM CLANDESTINE SOLIDARITY PUBLICATIONS THAT HAVE JUST COME TO LIGHT SAID THAT THERE WERE UN-CONFIRMED REPORTS OF SIX DEATHS IN STREET FIGHTING IN THE BALTIC COAST CITY ON DEC 16 AND 17. POLICE WHO HAD BEEN USING TEAR GAS, WATER CANNONS AND TRUNCHEONS TO DISPERSE LARGE CROWDS NEAR THE MONUMENT TO FALLEN SHIPYARD WORKERS IN 1970 WERE SAID TO HAVE OPENED

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FIRE AT SEVEN PPPMMM THURSDAY NIGHT, DEC 17.

FOUR PEOPLE WITH BULLET WOUNDS WERE ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL, ACCORDING TO A MIMEOGRAPHED LEAFLET, AND 23 YEAR-OLD ANTONI BROWARCZYK DIED OF HIS WOUNDS.

ANOTHER DOCUMENT FROM THE SUSPENDED TRADE UNION ALSO SAID THERE HAD BEEN SIX DEATHS IN GDANSK BUT ADDED THAT THEY COULD NOT BE DEFINITELY CONFIRMED.

IN WROCLAW, THE SOLIDARITY DOCUMENTS SAID THAT ONE WORKER AT THE POLYTECHNICAL UNIVERSITY DIED AFTER BEING STRUCK IN THE HEAD BY A POLICE BATON, WHEN POLICE BROKE UP A STRIKE AT THE UNIVERSITY EARLY LAST WEEK.

IT SAID STRIKERS WERE MADE TO WALK A GAUNTLET OF TRUNCHEON-WIELDING RIOT POLICE AFTER THEY WERE ROUNDED UP. IT SAID THE STAFF OF THE DUPLICATING CENTER WAS SUBJECTED TO PARTICULARLY SEVERE BEATINGS. THE IDENTITY OF THE VICTIM WAS NOT PROVIDED.

THE AUTHORITIES INSISTED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT SEVEN PEOPLE HAD BEEN KILLED SINCE MARTIAL LAW WAS DECLARED DEC 13, ALL OF THEM WORKERS AT THE WUJEK MINE IN THE COAL-MINING REGION OF SILESIA. BECAUSE OF A CONTINUING COMMUNICATIONS BLACKOUT AND RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL BY DIPLOMATS AND JOURNALISTS AND POLISH CITIZENS, REPORTS OF MORE DEATHS CANNOT EASILY BE CONFIRMED.

IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, NUMEROUS SOLIDARITY PUBLICATIONS HAVE COME TO LIGHT, INDICATING THAT THE UNION STILL MAINTAINS SOME SORT OF ORGANIZATION UNDERGROUND TO COLLECT DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT ENCOUNTERS WITH SECURITY FORCES.

THE UNION DOCUMENTS ALSO SAID THAT WHAT IT CALLED QUOTE IDEOLOGICAL VERIFICATION UNQUOTE WAS UNDERWAY AT NEWSPAPER OFFICES TO WEED OUT POLITICAL UNRELIABLES. IT SAID THE STAFF IS BEING INTERVIEWED BY MILITARY GROUPS AND BEING ASKED TO SIGN PLEDGES OF LOYALTY TO

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THE MARTIAL LAW REGIME.

THEY SAID SUCH A PURGE WAS ALREADY COMPLETED AT KURIER POLSKI, THE ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST-AFFILIATED DEMOCRATIC PARTY, AND THAT ONLY TWENTY PER CENT OF THE JOURNALISTS ACCEPTED THE NEW AUTHORITIES AND THE REMAINDER LOST THEIR JOBS.

QUOTE THE EDITOR IN CHIEF PARTICIPATES BUT IS NOT ALLOWED TO EXPRESS AN OPINION UNQUOTE THE DOCUMENTS SAID. THEY SAID NEXT WOULD BE A QUOTE VERIFICATION UNQUOTE OF TEACHERS AT ALL LEVELS IN ALL UNIVERSITIES.

THE DOCUMENTS INDICATED THAT MAJOR SIT IN PROTESTS HAD BEEN ENDED AT THE OIL REFINERY IN GDANSK AND THE SHIPYARD AND PORT THERE. THEY SAID THAT SOME MINES IN THE SOUTH HAD BEEN TAKEN BY SECURITY FORCES AND AT ONE STRIKING MINERS WERE GASSED AND BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE ON QUOTE WASTE HEAPS UNQUOTE. WHEN THEY REVIVED THEY WERE FORCED BACK TO WORK AT GUNPOINT AND THOSE WHO REFUSED WERE ARRESTED, THE DOCUMENTS SAID.

WARSAW RADIO SAID TODAY THAT THE COUNTRY WAS QUIET, ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS. IT SAID THE ONLY REMAINING POCKET OF CONTINUING RESISTANCE WAS AT THE PIAST MINE IN SILESIA WHERE 1100 MINERS REMAINED UNDERGROUND. IT SAID THAT TRANSPORTATON AND POWER SUPPLY WERE NORMAL THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

MEANWHILE, CHURCH SOURCES SAID THAT SOLIDARITY LEADER LECH WALESA WAS STILL BEING DETAINED AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE POLISH ARMY GENERAL STAFF ON RAKOWIECKA STREET IN WARSAW. THE STREET IS CORDONED OFF THE MOTORISTS BY SOLDIERS AT EITHER END, BUT PEDESTRIANS ARE ALLOWED TO PASS.

THE GENERAL STAFF HEADQUARTERS, A LARGE FOUR-STORY BUILDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BLOCK, IS UNDER 24 HOUR GUARD. BUT OVER THE HOLIDAY PERIOD THERE WAS LITTLE SIGN OF UNUSUAL ACTIVITY. THE BALCONIES

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ON THE TOP FLOOR ARE LINED WITH SANDBAGS WHICH APPEAR INTENDED TO PROVIDE COVER FOR ARMY SHARPSHOOTERS IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT OF AN ATTACK ON THE BUILDING.

THE SOURCES, WHO DID NOT WANT TO BE NAMED, SAID THAT MR WALESA WAS VISITED ON CHRISTMAS EVE BY A PRIEST WHO SAID MASS. EARLIER IN THE WEEK, HE WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN VISITED BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IN CHARGE OF TRADE UNION AFFAIRS, MIECZYSLAW RAKOWSKI, AN OLD NEGOTIATING PARTNER IN THE PAST.

THE AIM OF MR RAKOWSKI'S VISIT TO MR WALESA WAS NOT CLEAR EXCEPT THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS BELIEVED TO BE ANXIOUS TO PERSUADE 38 YEAR OLD UNION LEADER TO LEND HIS VOICE TO APPEALS FOR CALM.

IN ANY EVENT MR RAKOWSKI DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE MADE MUCH HEADWAY WITH MR WALESA. HE IS SAID TO HAVE STORMED OUT OF THE ROOM LOOKING ANGRY JUST A COUPLE OF MINUTES AFTER GOING IN.

THE SOURCES INTERPRETED THE INCIDENT AS A SIGN THAT MR WALESA WAS STILL RESISTING GOVERNMENT PRESSURES AND REFUSING TO NEGOTIATE AS LONG AS OTHER SOLIDARITY LEADERS ARE DETAINED.

OFFICIAL SPOKESMEN HAVE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON MR WALESA'S WHEREABOUTS, SAYING ONLY THAT HE IS BEING TREATED WELL AND HAS ACCESS TO NEWSPAPERS AND TELEVISION.

3. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. MEEAN

END OF MESSAGE

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